

Sabbath

Do Do this week's activity on page 53

Lazarus and a Resurrection Promise

Did you hear about the man in New York City who offers to sell the Brooklyn Bridge to a rich tourist? When the tourist can't decide if he wants to buy, the man adds the Titanic to the deal! Of course, it's a hoax. Doubters say the resurrection is a hoax too. But that's not what the resurrection of Lazarus shows. (See John 11:1-44; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; The Desire of Ages, pp. 533-536.)

Sunday

Read Read "Lazarus and a Resurrection Promise."

Learn Read the power text and think about its meaning.

Think What difference can it make in your life to know Jesus and believe He is coming to take you home with Him forever?

Write Write your answers in your Bible study journal.

Pray Ask God to help you know for sure that He can resurrect you.

Mary kneels at Jesus' feet sobbing. Mourners who have followed her are also weeping. A great sadness settles upon the Master; He begins to weep. He weeps for the sisters who cannot understand what He is about to do. He weeps for all people everywhere, past,

EIGHT

POWER POINT

present, and future, who grieve. He weeps for the doubting Pharisees who pretend to mourn, but who will soon plot to kill both Jesus and the newly resurrected Lazarus. He sees clearly that their rejection of Him ensures their forever death after the judgment. So Jesus weeps.

"See how He loved him!" some of the Jewish leaders murmur, thinking that Jesus is just missing His friend.

Jesus gives us new life today and for eternity.

POWER TEXT

"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first"

(1 Thessalonians 4:16, NIV).

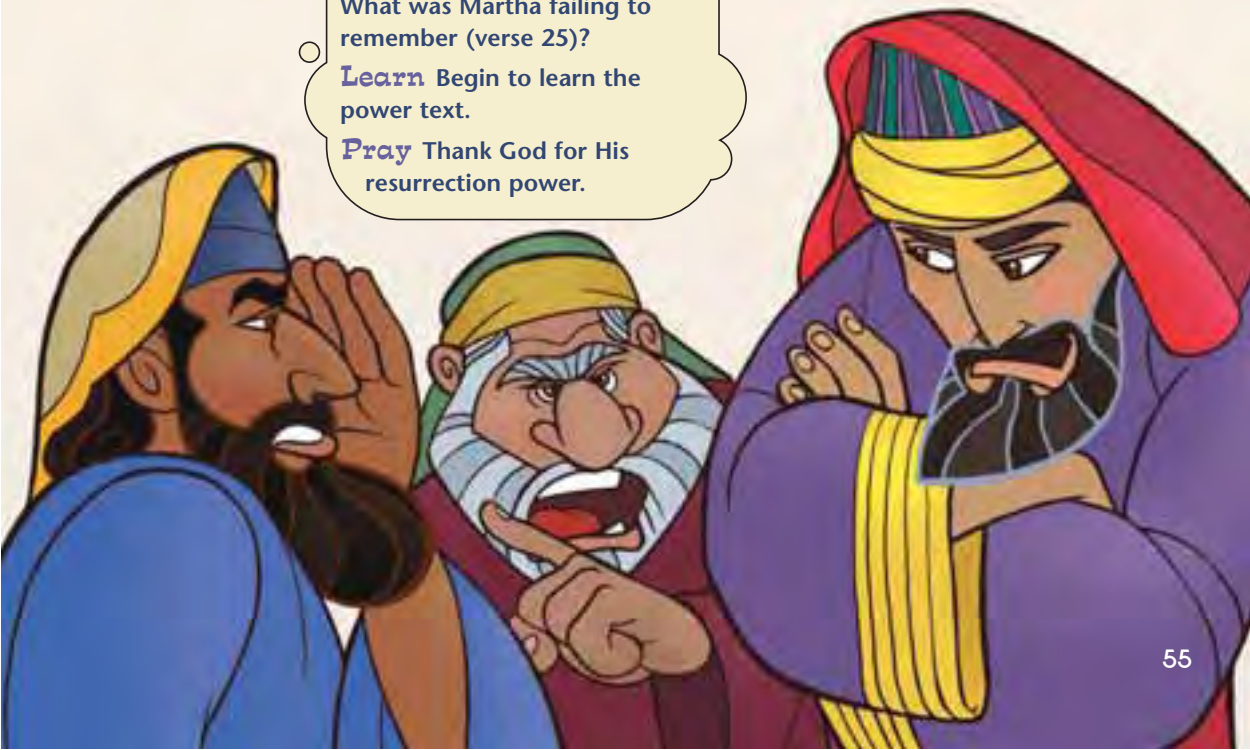
Monday

Read Read John 11:38-44.

Think What did Martha do that could have prevented Jesus from raising Lazarus (verse 39)? What was Martha failing to remember (verse 25)?

Learn Begin to learn the power text.

Pray Thank God for His resurrection power.



Then Jesus gets up and moves toward the tomb. He stands outside the cave where Lazarus' body has been lying four days. Earlier this day Jesus has claimed to be "the Resurrection and the Life." And in the same breath, He has said that someone who believes in Him will live, even though they die. He has prepared the people for a miracle.

Scanning the crowd who have now all gathered expectantly, we see the sad sisters, Mary and Martha, beside Jesus. Around them stand Jesus' disciples. Sad relatives and proud Pharisees surround them.

Confidently, Jesus waits to resurrect His friend, but the weeping and wailing have taken center stage.

A hush falls over the mourners as the crowd looks toward Jesus.

"Roll away the stone," He says.

Martha's mouth drops open; her eyes widen in horror. "No!" she gasps. "It's been four days. Think of the odor!" The thought of putting the decomposing body on view humiliates Martha. For a moment her pride stands in the way of Jesus and the blessing she most desires.

"Didn't I tell you to believe and see the glory of God?" Jesus gently reminds her.

Tuesday

Read Read John 5:24-27.

Think Which verse proves to you that you have forever life now?

Ask Ask an older Christian if they think verse 24 means that they will never die.

Do Look at a dry bean seed. What signs of life are there? Soak the bean in water overnight.

Pray Ask God to take your dry heart and water it with faith and love.

Wednesday

Read Read John 5:28, 29.

Think What two groups of people does Paul say will be resurrected? Which group has resurrection life? What makes the difference for those who have it?

Observe Check the bean you left soaking. Gently remove the skin and separate the two halves. What sign of future life do you see?

Pray Ask God to give you the assurance that He has planted in you the seed of forever life.

So they take away the stone. And Jesus lifts His face toward God. "Father," He says, "thank You for hearing Me. You always hear, but I wanted these to believe."

The Pharisees, some of whom were standing there at the tomb, have accused Jesus of using Satan's power to heal. Besides, they do not believe Jesus is God's Son. This resurrection will prove that His claims are no hoax.

Everyone can clearly see the cold, silent form lying there. Nobody questions whether or not Lazarus is



Thursday

Read Read 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

Think According to these texts:
When does resurrection life take effect?

When do the saints who have died go to heaven?

Why does it not make sense to pray to saints?

Pray Pray that God will keep you until He comes.

dead. Nobody moves a muscle. Then Jesus stands tall, His face glowing with light from heaven.

“Lazarus, come out!” He calls loudly. The crowd waits breathlessly, not wanting to miss anything. A shudder of life stirs the body in the cave. Suddenly Lazarus stands at the



door of the cave, wrapped tightly from head to toe.

"Loose him," Jesus says, giving the onlookers a chance to help. As the bandages come away, Lazarus, strong and healthy, gazes into the eyes of His Lord and friend and grins. Suddenly the crowd erupts in celebration. The sisters call their thanks to Jesus and turn to receive the congratulations of their friends. Jesus slips quietly away. When they look for the Life-giver, He is gone.

Is resurrection a hoax? Just as surely as Lazarus was raised, and because Jesus died and was raised, in Jesus we have resurrection life, and we have it now.

Friday

Plan Plan a special sunset worship.

Share Share the power text with your family.

Make Make sock puppets to wear on your hands. Lie on your back while a family member reads 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Raise and lower the puppets to illustrate the words of the text.

Sing Sing "Jesus Is Coming Again" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, No. 213). Make a new verse about graves being opened.

Pray Pray that your family will all go up to heaven together with Jesus.

